



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

8 VAC 20-120 – Career and Technical Education Regulations Department of Education September 25, 2000

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 9-6.14:7.1.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 25 (98). Section 9-6.14:7.1.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

Summary of the Proposed Regulation

The Board of Education (board) proposes to make several changes to the proposed regulations. These changes include: 1) elimination of a reporting requirement by the local advisory councils to the Department of Education (department), 2) certain competencies will become mandatory, and 3) the maximum class sizes for disadvantaged students and students with disabilities are changed to maximum average class size, with a moderately higher ceiling. Additionally, the board proposes to replace the term "vocational" with "career and technical" in both the title of, and throughout the regulations. These proposed regulations have already been implemented as emergency regulations.

Estimated Economic Impact

Under the current regulations, each local educational agency is required to establish a general vocational advisory council to provide advice to the local educational agency. The vocational advisory council is required to provide an annual report to the department describing

its activities. The board proposes to eliminate the annual report requirement. The proposed elimination of the report will produce a net benefit. The individuals that currently produce the report will benefit by saving the time and resources used to produce the report. The department's staff checks to make sure that the report is received each year, but makes no other use of the report. Thus, the elimination of the report should not produce any cost.

Currently, localities can add and subtract to the required state-established competencies for vocational programs. Due to federal legislation, these proposed regulations require that there be minimum state-established, industry-validated competencies, from which localities may add, but not subtract. This proposed change may be beneficial in that it could help ensure that all localities do in fact include the most basic necessary competencies for each career and technical program. On the other hand, it is possible that a particular locality might have a local industry for which the minimum state-established, industry-validated competencies are not necessarily the most appropriate. In this case, time spent on mandatory competencies might take away from time better spent on other subjects. As stated earlier, though, these proposed regulations have already been implemented as emergency regulations. According to DOE, there have been no complaints about the minimum state-established, industry-validated competencies that have been established. This implies that the possibility of inappropriate mandatory minimum state-established, industry-validated competencies has not occurred. Thus, this proposed change will most likely have a net positive impact or little effect.

Under the current regulations, localities may not have more than 15 students in career and technical educational classes for disadvantaged students. The proposed regulations would increase the ceiling on number of students per class to 18, while also adding a provision that the average class size cannot exceed 15. These proposed changes have the potential to be beneficial by permitting some students to take career and technical courses who are currently unable to do so. For example, say a school offers a career and technical course during two periods. The class during the first period has 12 students registered, and the class during the second period has 15 students registered. Say there are three students who wish to take the career and technical course, who have a scheduling conflict with the first time period, but whose schedules are open during the second period. These three students would be able to take the career and technical course under the proposed regulations, but not under the current regulations. Thus, the three students would clearly benefit. On the other hand, the increased class size (from 15 to 18) may

reduce the individual attention received by the other 15 students in the class. If the benefits received by the three students in being able to take the class exceed the costs of reduced individual attention received by the other 15 students in the class, then the proposed change would produce a net benefit. Data is not available to determine whether on average the benefit for one to three students additional being able to take a career and technical course outweighs the cost of a small reduction in individual attention received by the remaining 15 students.

Under the current regulations, localities may not have more than 10 students in career and technical educational classes for students with disabilities, or 12 students when an instructional aide is provided. The proposed regulations would increase the ceiling on number of students per class to 12 and 15, respectively, while also adding a provision that the average class size cannot exceed 10 and 12, respectively. The benefits and costs of these proposed changes are analogous to the benefits and costs of the proposed changes discussed above for career and technical courses for disadvantaged students.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed amendments will affect all 132 school divisions in the Commonwealth.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed amendments will affect all localities within the Commonwealth.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed amendments are not expected to significantly affect employment.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed amendments are not expected to significantly affect the use and value of private property.